

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 29

By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend First Lieutenant Norman Edward Lane Jr., United States Marine Corps, for meritorious service.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly wishes to honor the life and accomplishments of a courageous member of the United States Armed Forces who gave his life while serving our nation; and

WHEREAS, First Lieutenant Norman Edward Lane Jr., United States Marine Corps, made the ultimate sacrifice for his country on March 29, 1968, while serving in combat in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Norman Lane Jr. was struck down while performing the duties of his office with honor, bravery, and an unwavering dedication to the men under his leadership; and

WHEREAS, born in Knoxville on February 23, 1941, to Norman and Betsy Lane, Norman Jr., as he was known to his friends and relatives, lived his early years in Knoxville. He and his family moved to Vancouver, British Columbia, in 1951; and

WHEREAS, as a teenager, Mr. Lane was a member of the accelerated program at West Vancouver High School and a valued contributor to the school's debate team, as well as a talented athlete. He was a standout receiver for the Tigercats football team during the first season of the West Vancouver Six-Man League; and

WHEREAS, following his graduation from high school in 1958, a full year ahead of his peers, Norman Lane Jr. attended the University of British Columbia. After two years, he transferred to Vanderbilt University in Nashville and pursued a degree in English; and

WHEREAS, while attending Vanderbilt, Mr. Lane spent a semester studying abroad, traveling to Aix-en-Provence, France, in the fall of 1961, before graduating from the university in 1962; and

WHEREAS, Norman Lane Jr. attended Vanderbilt's law school from 1962 until 1965, when he returned to Brownsville; and

WHEREAS, he taught English and French at Haywood High School during the 1965–66 school year and, on April 1, 1966, enlisted as a member of the United States Marine Corps Reserve; and

WHEREAS, Norman Lane completed the rigors of the 41st Officer Candidate Course at Quantico and, in October of 1966, was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, after which he completed the Basic Officer Course 3-67 at The Basic School in Quantico, graduating on March 29, 1967; and

WHEREAS, as an officer of H&S Company, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines, out of Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, Second Lieutenant Lane was first assigned to the Ground Defense Force at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, between May and September of 1967 before receiving his orders for Vietnam, where he reported for duty on November 15, 1967; and

WHEREAS, after serving a short term as an Assistant Platoon Commander, Lieutenant Lane served as an 81mm Mortar Platoon Commander with the Thundering Third, the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, 3rd Marine Division. As a Mortar Platoon Commander, he served at the C-2 and C-3 battalion base areas, located just south of the Demilitarized Zone, and in the field; and

WHEREAS, while attached to Lima Company, 3/4 Marines, First Lieutenant Lane fought bravely in the bloody engagements of January 1968 near The Marketplace and Mike's Hill; and

WHEREAS, on March 29, 1968, First Lieutenant Lane was commanding his mortar platoon and his fire direction crew at the C-3 battalion base area known as Cam Lo Hill. The base was taking enemy fire when Lieutenant Lane was struck down by the explosion of an enemy mortar round; and

WHEREAS, Norman Lane was buried in the Tabernacle Methodist Church cemetery near Brownsville on Friday, April 5, 1968; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his service to his men, the Marine Corps, and his country, First Lieutenant Lane was awarded a number of medals and commendations, including the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Purple Heart, and the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V"; and

WHEREAS, today, Norman Lane Jr. is survived by his sister, Linda Farmer, and fondly remembered by his many friends, his many relatives, his former students, and those with whom he served, and it is wholly fitting that the members of this General Assembly formally recognize his life and service to his country; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of First Lieutenant Norman Lane Jr., United States Marine Corps, commending his unswerving commitment to duty in the face of grave danger and his unwavering dedication to excellence in service to the United States Marine Corps and to these United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.